

You Can Prevent Mosquito Breeding!

When you have located every water source on your premises that might be producing mosquitoes you can -

1. Drain, empty, fill, or seal off the water source.
2. Contact Mosquito Control if it is a large pond.

Whether you live in the country, city, or suburbs, you may be bothered by mosquitoes. Besides being annoying pests, some mosquitoes can transmit certain diseases to man and domestic animals. If you know something about where mosquitoes lay their eggs, how they live, and what can be done to prevent or control them, you will be able to reduce the number of mosquitoes in and around your home.

Clark County Mosquito Control
P.O. Box 9825
1950 Fort Vancouver Way
Vancouver, Washington 98666-8825

24-Hour Hotline: (360) 397-8430
Fax: (360) 397-8084
Email: mosquito@swwhd.wa.gov

Clark County Mosquito Control

Mosquito Prevention At Home



MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

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The Mosquito Lifecycle

Eggs

The common mosquito lays a mass of eggs on the water which floats like a raft. Each raft contains 100-400 eggs. The eggs hatch in a day or so into larvae.

Larva

The larvae, or "wiggler", comes to the water surface to breathe through a tube called a siphon. It sheds its skin or molts four times during the next several days. It grows rapidly between molts. On the fourth molt it turns into a pupa.

Pupa

The pupa, or "tumbler" cannot eat. It breathes through 2 tubes on its back. The mosquito grows inside the pupa and in approximately 2 days, when it is fully developed, it splits the pupa skin and emerges as an adult to complete the lifecycle, or metamorphosis.

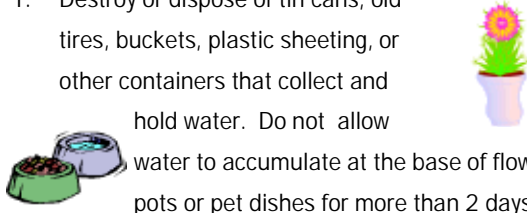


Adult


The newly emerged adult rests on the water surface until it is strong enough to fly away to look for food.

Facts About Mosquitoes

1. Mosquitoes must have water to complete their lifecycle.
2. During warm weather, only 7 days are required for the mosquito to complete their lifecycle.
3. Mosquitoes never develop in grass or shrubbery. Flying adults rest there during daylight hours.
4. Only female mosquitoes bite to obtain a blood meal. The male mosquito feeds only on plant juices.
5. The female mosquito may live as long as 3 weeks during the summer and many months during the winter in order to lay her eggs in the spring.


How to Prevent Mosquito Breeding

1. Destroy or dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, plastic sheeting, or other containers that collect and hold water. Do not allow water to accumulate at the base of flower pots or pet dishes for more than 2 days.
2. Cesspools and septic tanks. Seal and cover openings so that no adult mosquitoes can get in.
3. Ponds. Remove excess vegetation.
4. Irrigated lawns and fields. Avoid over-irrigation, over watering, and drain ponded areas.
5. Bird baths. Change water frequently.
6. Watering troughs. Change water weekly. Eliminate standing water around the trough.

7. Open ditches in residential areas. Drain to stream channels, underground system, or other outlet.
8. Used tires. Store indoors or dispose at an approved location.
9. Swimming or wading pools. Empty or cover tightly when not in use.
10. Water under homes or in basements. Drain or pump out if possible. Spray as required.
11. Roof gutters. Clean frequently to remove blockage.

Mosquito Control At Home

Mosquito control is both a public and private responsibility. The District policy is to control large populations of mosquitoes, but it is impossible to eliminate mosquitoes entirely. Therefore individuals and families will find it necessary at times to use their own control methods. The following suggestions are made to help you with this.

1. Use skin repellants with ingredients containing DEET. Read and follow label instructions carefully. Use caution if applying them to small children.
2. Cover doors and windows with screens if they are going to be left open during mosquito season.

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